



# the Copper Hill Connection

March 2016

## Pastor's Postings

### How to Be a Church for 200 Years

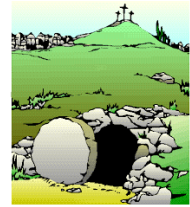
by Rev. Dr. Kelvin S. Jones

It is humbling to think that we are the ones here to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Copper Hill United Methodist Church. I'm thinking of all those who have faithfully served, have given of themselves, struggled to overcome obstacles, and persevered through hard times so that we could see this joyous day. We are indebted to their faith in God's purpose for this church.

We are also humbled to think about what God has wrought. In this era where religious persecution is rampant all over the world, we live in a place where we are still free to worship without fear. In our own New England where so many churches are closing and being abandoned, ours has continued to function, though it has suffered the ups and downs that churches often endure. Surely we are indebted to the grace and faithfulness of God for preserving our church. We can sing with joy, "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

The question arises, "How does a church survive for 200 years?" For that to happen, pastors and parishioners had to work together to keep the main thing the main thing. Whenever the church is distracted by various causes, theological controversies, movements, or fads, they are in danger of ending up in a backwater as the main current bypasses the stagnating pool. But where is the main current? And how do we stay with it? In the words of John 3:16, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." That's the center. As the *United Methodist Discipline* states, "The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ...Christian ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by a community of Christians" (*The Book of Discipline* 2004, paras. 120, 125). Our focus and our model is Jesus. So must it always be. When His life is flowing through us, we are truly alive.

Each act of worship and devotion today continues the 200-year journey of "fixing our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2). As we keep doing this, the future of the church will be bright.



## EASTER EVENTS

Easter is a time that fills our hearts with hope! As we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead, we reaffirm our faith that we will also live again in heaven with Him, and with all our loved ones who have gone to heaven ahead of us.

We would love to have you join us in the events listed below!

**Palm Sunday, March 20—9:30 AM:** Our choir will present the encouraging message that "Greater Is He That is In Me," than forces at work in our world. Everyone will receive a palm leaf to remind us of Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem.

**Holy Thursday Communion Service, March 24—7 PM:** a night to remember the love demonstrated in Christ's suffering and death to give us eternal life.

**EASTER SUNDAY, March 27—9:30 AM:** Special music will include soloist Jonathan Griffin telling the story of Peter's denial of Jesus and discovery that "He's Alive!" Our choir and children will join in on the final chorus. The choir anthem, "That Same Power" reminds us that God's resurrection power is also available to us who believe.

Please stay after the service to enjoy our COFFEE HOUR. A special treat will be the EASTER EGG HUNT for children ages 12 and under.



## Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday—March 27

Following the 9:30 Easter Service

All Children ages 12 and under welcome!



# Ministries of Our Church

## Grassroots Community Prayer

*“Pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers.”*

Ephesians 6:18

Several churches of the community met together again on Sunday evening, March 6, to pray for our local churches, our area, our state, and New England.

Given the fact that four of the six New England states are the lowest in the U.S. in church attendance, it is obvious that we need a fresh touch of God’s Spirit. Copper Hill, East Granby, and Enfield were the sites of revivals in the past, and we are expecting God to move in this area again!

Leading the service were Pastor Peter Preiser of West Granby, Pastor Kelvin Jones, and Pastor Al Royal hosting at Life Church. Pastor Al shared a quote from Oswald Chambers: “Prayer is not a way to get things, but that we may get to know God.”

Plans are underway for the next grassroots prayer service to be at the West Granby UM Church later this spring.

## New Bible Study

Do you need help keeping a more positive faith attitude? Then this Bible Study is just for you! Pastor Kelvin is teaching from the book of **Philippians** in two locations: Tuesdays at 1:30 PM at the Higley Village clubhouse in East Granby, and Monday evenings at 7:00 PM at church. You’ll find it well worth your time.

## United Methodist Women

The UMW is collecting items for **Layette Kits** to be sent to UMCOR (the **United Methodist Church’s Committee on Relief**). There is a great need for basic supplies for new mothers in developing countries and the U.S. Donations (see list of needs in the Fellowship Hall) should be left in the collection box at church by Sunday, **April 10**.



## “Goings On” at Our Church

### 200th Anniversary Kickoff

The Copper Hill Methodist Church was founded in 1816, making this its **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** year. On Sunday, **April 10**, we will kick off our *200 Days of Celebration*.

We will be holding more special events throughout the year. Watch for information in your weekly church bulletin and future editions of this newsletter.

### New Event—the Victorian Lady

As part of our church’s 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the UMW is sponsoring an “**An Afternoon with the Victorian Lady**” on Sunday, **May 15**. This is a presentation by Kandie Carle on the fashion, life, and etiquette of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. You can look her up at *kandiecarle.com*. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 2 PM, followed by light refreshments and tea.

### Spring Tag & Bake Sale

Time to start that spring cleaning! The UMW is holding a **Tag & Bake Sale** on Saturday, **April 9**. So, look through those things you’ve been hanging on to but not using, and bring them in (after Easter). Baked goods should be brought the morning of the sale, wrapped and priced.

The *drop-off day* is Saturday, **April 2**. Call Susan at (860) 668-1031 for more information or if you need items picked up. We will be doing the final setup on Monday, *April 4*, at 1 PM.

### SAVE the DATE: Ham Dinner, Saturday, May 21

The menu will include baked ham, scalloped potatoes, carrots, green peas, and cherry pie for dessert. The cost will be: adults—\$12; children under 12—\$6; preschoolers—free.

For reservations, call Mary McCorison at (860) 653-2834.



## Activities

### You May Have Missed

On February 27, the third *Winter Picnic* was enjoyed by all who attended. There were games for all ages and a meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and desserts.

We served our *Corned Beef Dinner* on March 12, with a full house for the one seating and a number of take-out meals.



## Copper Hill

## 200 Years Ago

by Carol Griffin

In the 1800s, the settlement area known as Copper Hill had its own schoolhouse, railroad line, store, church, and post office (Copper Hill, Ct.). Perhaps because of its location, in the winter it was difficult for the people to get to the "other side of the mountain" in Suffield or East Granby and a bit far to travel to Granby. So the folks of Copper Hill became quite self-sufficient and content in their little corner of the world.

In 1816 six people—Seth Griffin, Aristarchus Griffin, and Calvin Gillet, with their wives—decided it was time to organize a church for the people of the area. Thus was the beginning of the Copper Hill Methodist Church. Members took turns holding services in private homes. They became part of the Granville, Massachusetts circuit, sharing a minister with other churches in Connecticut and Massachusetts. But by 1839, the congregation of the Copper Hill Church had grown to such size as to warrant the formation of their own church building.

In the spring of 1839, a meeting was called in the home of Festus Viets in Copper Hill, and a committee was appointed. A site was selected, land was purchased, and the structure was built. By the fall of 1839, the meeting house was dedicated, built at a cost of \$1400. The location of the church was about two rods north of its present site. It became the center of religious services and social activities including suppers, meetings, church school, bazaars, and quilting bees, as it continues to be today.

This year, 2016, is the 200th birthday of the little church. Standing at the corner of Griffin Road and Copper Hill Road, diagonally across from the Copper Hill Country Club, this plain, white-clapboard structure has been viewed by many as a historic building, which it is. However, it is also a very active, thriving church with a Sunday school, women's group, and a missions committee, serving parishioners from East Granby, Suffield, Granby, and other surrounding towns. Those who have attended Christmas bazaars, bake sales, and delicious home-made suppers here always come back for more. Sunday services at 9:30 AM are a welcoming and friendly experience.

During our celebration of the church's anniversary, a variety of programs, (musical, historical, and social) will be held and open to the public. Notices of these events will be

appearing in newspapers, welcoming everyone to join in to learn more about the Copper Hill community.

## Supporting Heifer International

Heifer International was founded by a farmer named Dan West. Dan was a part of a Church of the Brethren congregation and visited the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. When he saw the poverty that existed and the meager supplies of milk, the idea struck him that what was needed was not just to send food, but to give families a cow. That was the beginning of a charity that has continued for more than 70 years.

Today, Heifer International works to empower families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. Their goal is not just to give them a handout, but to create sustainable agriculture. The genius of their model is the idea of passing on the gift. This means that families share the training they receive and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their own communities. For more info see <http://www.heifer.org/about-heifer/index.html>.

This past quarter, Copper Hill church donated \$418 to Heifer International to assist in their work of helping families and establishing stronger communities in the impoverished places of our world. This donation grows out of our belief that we are to be brothers and sisters not only of those next door, but also of people in other places in our world as God grants opportunity through wise and reliable partners.



"We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus."

2 Corinthians 4:14 NIV

Copper Hill United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 422  
East Granby, CT 06026



## Copper Hill Connection

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Copper Hill United Methodist Church, 27 Copper Hill Road, East Granby, CT  
Editor: Judy Holcomb      Assistant Editor: JoAnne D. Jones  
If you would prefer to receive your copy by email, please let us know.

### Come Celebrate with Us!

**March 20—9:30 AM:** Palm Sunday Service, Choir Special

**March 24—7 PM:** Holy Thursday Communion Service

**March 27—9:30 AM:** Easter Sunday Service  
Choir and Children

COFFEE HOUR—following the service

& EASTER EGG HUNT—for children ages 12 and under



Find us on the **web:** [www.CopperHillChurch.us](http://www.CopperHillChurch.us)

**Pastor's Blog:** at [www.learntobewise.com](http://www.learntobewise.com)

**Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/copperhillchurch](http://www.facebook.com/copperhillchurch)

**Phone:** Pastor Kelvin S. Jones: 860-653-2891

